

Второй  
выпуск



# Foreign Comic Collector

Issue 2 / Dec 2013



## Featuring...

**You thought you knew  
what Conan's first  
comic appearance was!**

*La Reina de la Costa Negra:*

*The Mystery of the Mexican Conan Comics*

**Why Collect Foreign  
Comics? Part 2**

*Comic book collecting with a  
foreign variant focus*

[www.foreigncomiccollector.webs.com](http://www.foreigncomiccollector.webs.com)





# Welcome to F.C.C.!



You came back! Could it be we piqued your interest in foreigners? Ha, these damn things are very addictive my friends. In this issue we have a wonderful story on Conan's early history in comics and it's not quite what you might think? I have always had a soft spot for our favorite barbarian and it seems like some Conan completists are going to be driven nuts with this wonderful investigative piece!

Wondering how to get a physical printed copy of the mag? Well, print runs are very small at the moment but we are hoping to get physical copies to comic conventions as soon as possible. Please bear with us as we ramp up our physical presence at shows. Enjoy our second issue with a heavy Conan bent and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any ideas for a story or just want to tell us your experience with foreign variants!

## Editor

**Define999 (Matt)**

**define999FCC@yahoo.com**

## On the cover

So Tony AKA solarcadet decided he wanted to get his Batman Death in the Family set signed by Mike Mignola at Phat Collectibles in Anaheim California. December 15, 2012 rolled around and he trucked the entire set: BDITF American, Thai, German, Finnish, Mexican, Brazilian and brought them to Mr. Mignola's attention. Needless to say Mike tripped out, and wasn't too pleased with a certain foreign publisher's decision to change some inking work on his iconic cover. Thanks to solarcadet for sharing this cool pic and if your interested in contacting Tony you can email him here.....

**solarcadet@gmail.com**

**Image courtesy of solarcadet**

## Mission Statement

The altruistic goal of attaining and sharing further knowledge and respect for foreign variants and all variants within the comic collecting community. This should be love focused, informative, and most of all fun!

## Featured in this issue:

- *La Reina de la Costa Negra* pg 3
- *Comic Book Collecting with a foreign variant focus (part 2)* pg8
- *Sourcers corner* pg9
- *The Limelight: Conan 1 key based set by Amazing R.J.S.* pg10





# La reina de la Costa Negra

Nº 31

## The Mystery of the Mexican Conan Comics

by Jeffrey Shanks

The latest iteration of the ongoing monthly Conan series from Dark Horse (written by Brian Wood) has received a great deal of praise from critics and readers alike for its fresh take on the iconic 80-year old barbarian. However, the series has had mixed reviews from the hardcore Robert E. Howard fans to say the least, and has been the subject of much hand-wringing and gnashing of teeth on various REH-related online communities. Wood's current adaptation of "Queen of the Black Coast" is certainly a different approach to the classic story than what most longtime Conan comics readers are used to. The classic adaptation by Roy Thomas and John Buscema was a legendary run in the 1970's, spanning over 40 issues in the main Marvel title and for many the image of Buscema's Bêlit with her fur mono-kini is iconic. But what few people realize is that nearly a quarter of a century before Marvel's "Queen of the Black Coast" and six decades before the current Dark Horse version, the classic story of Conan and his she-pirate lover had already made their comic book debut in an obscure, unauthorized Mexican publication.

The series "La Reina de la Costa Negra" appeared in several formats in the 1950s and 60s. While Howard's original story was adapted in a few issues, the writers of this version took considerable liberties with the characters and added dozens of issues of pastiche stories. The most unconventional features of these stories included the fact that Bêlit—not Conan—is the lead protagonist and Conan is depicted with blond hair rather than black. The Black Corsairs of Howard's story were also changed to Vikings and first mate

N'yaga had his name changed to Yanga. For many years there was very little known about these curious Mexican bootlegs and today they have achieved something like urban myth status among Howard collectors.

Supposedly, they first appeared on the radar of US fandom in 1966 when L. Sprague de Camp, then editing the Conan stories for the Lancer paperbacks, learned that the Mexican company Ediciones Joma was publishing a Conan comic book. De Camp contacted the company with the intention of trying to inquire about them, but they never replied and stopped publication (perhaps fearing a lawsuit) (Bacon 3). De Camp seems to have let the matter drop and the knowledge of this series was not circulated within American fandom.

Then in 1968 collector Douglas Menville found a copy of La Reina de la Costa Negra #2 in a bookstore (dated October 8, 1958 and published by Ediciones Mexicanas Asociadas or E.M.A.). In 1970, when Marvel began publishing its Conan series, Menville contacted them to let them know about this earlier Conan comic from Mexico, but his letter was never printed or acknowledged. Then more issues began to appear: Roy Thomas acquired photocopies of #3 and #4 (dated October 15 and 22, 1958) and Menville found a copy of #16 published by Joma and dated December 16, 1965 (Menville 53).







La Reina de la Costa Negra #2 (EMA 1958)

In 1976, Jonathan Bacon acquired a photocopy of #10 (again by Joma) dated October 27, 1965 from Bill Blackbeard at the San Francisco Academy of Art and reproduced it in full for his contribution to the APA fanzine REHupa #21. Bacon mentions the story of De Camp contacting Joma for the first time in print and notes that it was believed that there were

around forty issues printed. That same year, Glenn Lord, the executor of the Howard estate, mentioned the series in his Howard bio-bibliography The Last Celt, noting that at least forty-five issues were published by Joma in 1965-66.

In 1978, the larger comic book community became aware of the series for the first time when Fred Blosser wrote an article for Savage Sword of Conan #26 describing a copy of La Reina de la Costa Negra #15 he had acquired from Roy Thomas. After seeing Blosser's article, Menville wrote Marvel again. This time Thomas was very interested in his information and made him aware of Bacon's discovery. This



Fred Blosser's article in Savage Sword #26

led to Menville writing his own article (in Savage Sword #44) about his research into the series and more of the pieces began to fall into place. Menville also noted that issue 16 was a partial adaptation of the original "Queen of the Black Coast" story.

So by the late 1970s, several researchers had begun to compare notes and put together the story behind these interesting comics. It appeared at that point that La Reina de la Costa Negra had begun as a weekly series published for a few issues by E.M.A in 1958. Then after a gap of seven years the title had resumed in 1965, this time by Joma, with the break in publication occurring somewhere between #4 and #10. This remained the extent of the knowledge about these curious comics for the next two decades.



La Reina de la Costa Negra #31 (Joma 1966)

Over the years a few more issues were discovered, but it was not until the advent of the internet and eBay that enough issues began to surface to fill in the gaps in the story. It turns out that the Joma series in 1965-66 was not a continuation of the E.M.A. run in 1958, but a completely different series with separate numbering. Then it was discovered that "La Reina de la Costa Negra" had first appeared even earlier in 1952 as a feature in an an-

## The Queen of the Black Coast by Marvel and Dark Horse



Marvel Conan #58



Marvel Conan #100



Dark Horse Conan #1



Dark Horse Conan #2





Opening panels of Cuentos de Abuelito #8 adapted from the original story.

thology series called Cuentos de Abuelito (Grandpa's Stories). This was first pointed out by Paul Herman in *The Neverending Hunt* in 2006, but his information was incomplete. He noted that a series called Cuentos de Abuelito presents *La Reina de la Costa Negra*, published by Corporacion Editorial Mexicana S.A. (C.E.M.S.A.), had run for 18 issues in 1952 in a small-size format (4x5½") and that he owned a copy of #17.

In 2008, Paul Wells, added a more information (and more questions) when he discussed "*La Reina de la Costa Negra*" in an article on sword and sorcery comics in *Alter Ego* #80. Using information provided by Ulises Mavrides, a researcher and collector from Mexico, Wells first notes that *La Reina* appeared in two issues of Cuentos de Abuelito, then later contradicts himself saying that it appeared in issues 8-12. He credits the writers of that story arc as Loa and Victor Rodriguez and the artist as Salvador Lavalle with covers done by Hector "Hecky" Gutierrez. Excerpts from these issues also indicate

that they adapt the Howard story, though with Bêlit surviving at the end. The opening panels from #8 show Conan riding down to a port as in the beginning of the original Howard story. While Wells does not explicitly say it, this suggests that #8 may have been the first appearance of *La Reina* and thus the first comic appearance of Conan. That said, he clearly was not aware of the 18 issues that Paul Herman referenced so the question of exactly how many issue of Cuentos there were and how many contained Conan stories was still unclear.

Wells did have more information on the two later standalone *La Reina de la Costa Negra* series. According to his source, Mavrides, the digest-sized (5x7") E.M.A. series ran for 11 weekly issues from 1958-59. Written by Riold de Man, it retold some of the stories from the earlier Cuentos series with new artwork by Lavalle and Gutierrez (including no small amount of swipes from Joe Kubert's "*Viking Prince*" that was running in *The Brave and the Bold* at the time).

The later Joma series (standard comic book size), according to Wells ran for at least 47 issues in 1965 to 1966. The early issues of the Joma series were re-prints of the 1958 E.M.A. series, but new stories by J. Kstro and art by Lavalle were added for the later issues. One of the interesting charac-



*La Reina de la Costa Negra* #47 (Joma 1966)



*La Reina* was much more violent than US comics in the 60s





The authors personal collection of rare Mexican Conan comics

teristics of this series is its depiction of violence and gore, which was far more graphic than anything the Comics Code Authority would have allowed in the United States at the time.

For the next couple of years, that was where the knowledge of these books stood. The 1958 and 1965-66 series were fairly well-documented with the latter being more common (though still very scarce). The earlier Cuentos de Abuelito series was still more of a mystery and they were incredibly rare. Unlike comics in the US, Mexican comics were not collected until very recently and were considered disposable trash. It is remarkable that any of the issues from the 1950's survive.

Then in 2011, there was a break-through when a Mexican collectibles dealer acquired a full run of Cuentos de Abuelito and put it on eBay. The auctions never ran their course, however, as someone made a private deal to buy all of the issues with Conan appearances for several thousand dollars. Scans of the covers of many of the issues were saved by various individuals and they can be seen online now on several sites such as Jungle Frolics and CROM!. I contacted the seller recently to get more information from him and discuss these interesting comics.

"Costa Negra" stories. Therefore it can now be said with some certainty that the first appearance of Conan in a comic book is Cuentos de Abuelito #8. Its scarcity is probably impossible to overestimate. There are at least two copies in existence: Mavrides' copy that was pictured in Alter Ego #80 and the recent eBay copy. There may have also been another copy in the 18 issues that Paul Herman knew about (though it is pMavrides' set). The eBay seller was also able to confirm that there were no Conan stories in issues 20, 22, 27, 29, and 31. But that every other issue from 8 to 61 contain "La Reina de la Costa Negra." That makes 49 issues of Conan comics from 1952-53, many of which had never been seen in the US before 2011. It is also very

likely that some of these issues have less than five to ten copies in existence. As time goes by and collectors become aware of their significance, more will likely come to the surface and we will be able to more accurately judge their relative scarcity. The 1958 series also seems to be quite scarce. Only issues 2, 3, 4, and 11 have been positively



Conan's true 1st comic appearance: Cuentos de Abuelito #8 (1952)

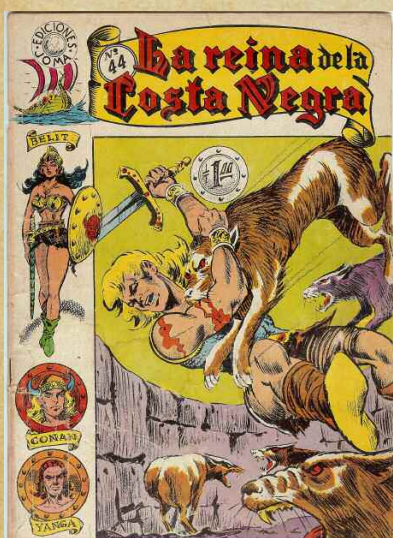




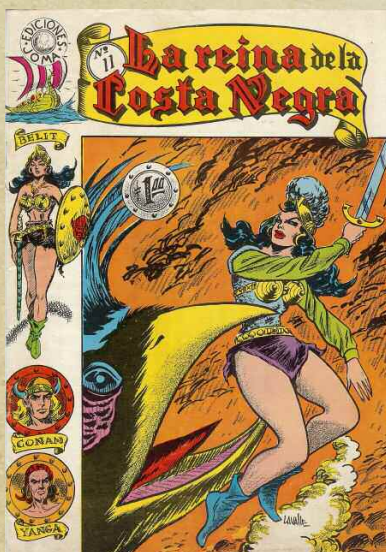
La Reina de la Costa Negra #10  
front cover (Joma 1965)



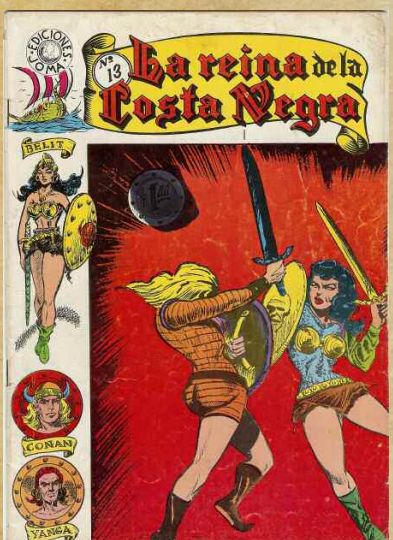
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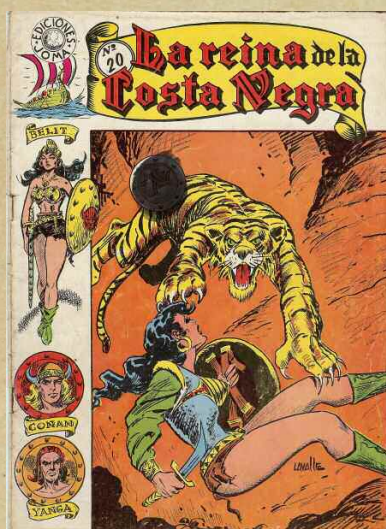
La Reina de la Costa Negra #44  
(Joma 1966)



La Reina de la Costa Negra #11  
(Joma 1965)



La Reina de la Costa Negra #13  
(Joma 1965)



La Reina de la Costa Negra #20  
(Joma 1966)

identified. It is possible that the series went beyond 11, but that has not yet been confirmed. The latest issue that has been positively identified for the 1965-66 series is #53, though Jim Van Hise once posted on the REH Forum that he had seen a #60 sell on eBay. No copy of the first issues of either the 1958 series or the 1965 series have ever been shown publicly. Again the internet has made our knowledge of rare collectibles grow rapidly in just a few years and has help shed new light on this old mystery of the strange Mexican Conan comics.

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Jeffrey Shanks is an archaeologist and historian with a avid interest in popular culture and pulp fiction. He has published a number of popular and scholarly articles on Robert E. Howard and Conan, including a recent contribution to the essay collection Conan Meets the Academy, which garnered the 2013 Robert E. Howard Foundation Award for Best Essay.

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# Comic Book Collecting With a Foreign Variant Focus

continued from issue 1 (Part 2)

## What exactly is a foreign variant?

To understand foreign variants let's seek out the generally accepted definition of what an American variant is. Traditionally, an American comic book variant has been a comic book that was printed with a different cover, cover price, printing error, or special insert. Repeated printings of that same comic much later than the original print date in America are called reprints and are usually stated in the indicia.

A foreign licensed comic book could be considered a reprint having been printed at a later date than its American counterpart, but many foreign variant collectors ask a couple of fundamental questions. Disregarding the later print date for a moment, what if this is the first time a particular story or cover has been printed in a particular language or country for the very first time? What if for the intended audience, the foreign readers, this is the very first time the comic cover or story has been available to them? Especially considering that with foreign books printed through the 50s - 70s there wasn't an American option. With the exception of maybe American military bases, for these specific readers these books are the original printing. Because of these questions, foreign variants don't fit neatly into known traditional American classifications in the argument of variant versus reprint.

Further complicating the matter is the fact that many foreign companies chose to take American editorial contents and combine them into their own unique specific release. Let's say for example the French decide to license Batman issue 227. They use a version of 227's American cover, but include not only the editorial content of 227 but 228's and 229's story in the comic as well. So which variant is it? 227's, 228's, or 229's? The easy answer is all of them are. Playing devil's advocate you could say the answer being 227's only, however, for a key piece of the others is missing, the cover.

Even more perplexing is some companies decide to use completely different cover art than the American books. Ei-

ther brand new art created by foreign artists or even different American issue art! So you could have a Batman 227 story in a book with 229's cover. This mis-marriage of covers and interiors or lack of defined parameters is another reason why some American collectors choose not to deal with the complexity of foreign comic books.

## Desirability

So what is more desirable? Just like collecting American editions there are different camps of collectors that prefer certain things. Certain trends do stick out though. One thing for sure is the closer the foreign print date to the American print date the more desirable the book.

The proper marriage of cover and interior content is also preferred as well, or at least a foreign cover that still uses the American art as a general guide instead of completely new original artwork. This issue is up for debate though among some foreign collectors considering some original art created by the local artists can be considered quite desirable from a technical and novelty perspective.

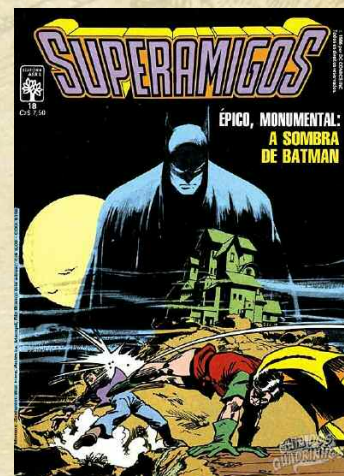
Print runs are also important just like in America. Rarity is a good indicator of what is desirable. For example, unlike in America where most comics printed after 1970 are plentiful, many foreign variants are incredibly rare even in their countries of origin. This is because some of these countries or provinces were quite small and therefore didn't have large print runs. These books can be incredibly hard to find and source. Some foreign variant collectors speculate that some key books might be so rare that the population numbers of them in North America could be counted on one hand.

Considering the rarity of some of these variants one would think values would be high. This interestingly enough is not the case with these books.

A comic book's worth in the comic collecting world is inextricably tied with price guides which help in determining value. Being



Strange 107, French edition that collects multiple American issues including the important 1st appearance of the punisher. Is this a French 129 foreign variant? Yes, but the editorial decision to use different art instead of the classic American 129 art on the cover makes this variant much less desirable.



Superamigos 18, Brazilian edition that collects 3 American Batman issues but does not include the interior of Batman 227. This issue features 227's art after it has been altered to reflect the publishers desire to feature Robin on the cover. Is this a 227 variant? Maybe, but some collectors might say no. This does not however change the fact that this issue is of interest to foreign 227 collectors



that there is no price guide that focuses on foreigners, values can be all over the map with one exception that I know of. That exception dealing directly with foreign issues is the Comic Book Price Guide of Great Britain, and for the most part values of UK foreign “pence” variants are about half of their American counterparts. Interestingly enough many foreign variant collectors prefer this price discrepancy for the end goal isn’t monetary value but intrinsic value to their collections. The task of finding these rare variants is hard enough, what is not needed on top of everything else is sky high pricing factored into the hunts of key books.

## Condition

For American comic book collectors condition has long been a very important issue. Obsessive would probably be a good adjective to describe American’s views on condition. In some countries it seems the exact opposite of obsessive is true in many cases dealing with foreign countries’ collectors. The “bag and board mentality” is not something that caught on until recently in many foreign countries. The result is that huge amounts of foreign material were left to the elements and exist in a poor state. Finding high-grade foreign comics can be practically impossible because of this issue! In many of these countries, structural condition only matters in extreme cases, like detached covers, massive tearing or writing on a book. This being the case, many American foreign collectors have had to adjust their collecting preferences having to do with condition.

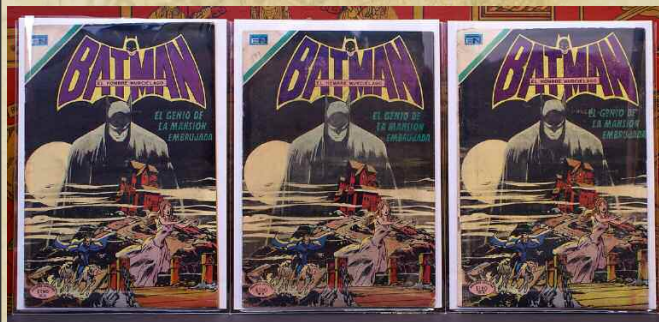
Some would say many of the collectors in foreign countries have a more traditional philosophy when collecting comics. The stories and the visceral excitement of the content matter more than the structural condition of the book. This traditional mindset, while great for what it is, makes finding foreign variants in the highest quality condition extremely difficult and time consuming.

The other factor in condition of these books is environment. North America sits in latitude where the environment could generally be called temperate. Many countries closer to the equator have more tropical environs that damage books much faster because of the dual comic killing factors of high temperatures and high humidity. The Latin American foreign variants are one group that was highly affected by this climate issue.



Fantastici Quattro 56, Italian edition that collects 3 issues. A Fantastic Four, Secret Wars 2, and the Classic Hulk #340. Vicious circle! Notice the Italians curious editorial decision to flip the iconic McFarlane cover so it is reversed horizontally?

## The Batman Novaro 227 variant condition problem



This variant is extremely rare and even more rare in grades above fine. Print quality and storage issues seemed to plague this very important Mexican variant. Many comic books printed for countries in lower latitudes not only suffered from a lack of a “bag and board mentality”, but also a humid and tropical environment. Just finding one 227 Novaro variant is tough, but finding three while residing outside their countries of origin is a gargantuan task.

## The ironic indigenous bias by foreign collectors

Another very important aspect to consider in foreign variant collecting is that for many but not necessarily all, some foreign collectors seemed to have a preference for the American editions instead of their own indigenous language versions. This bias can be seen in the UK Comic Book Price Guide of Great Britain where the books created for the local market are worth considerably less than the American books. This flies in the face of the generally accepted variant value phenomenon of rarity=value. Normally with American variants the more rare a book the more its generally accepted value. Not so with foreign variants, even though the UK “pence” copies had print runs of about a tenth of their American counterparts, they are not nearly as valued in the UK guide.

Unfortunately, I have found that this bias for American books seems to appear all over the world. While hunting for a particular Portuguese variant I spoke with a Portuguese collector about why it was so difficult finding a particular book. He explained that for the most part the Portuguese collectors at the time were not pursuing the local Portuguese book. They wanted the American version and he found it amazing he was able to find the Portuguese version for me at all. I believe this bias for American books only intensified with the creation of the Internet and the explosion of other venues for foreign collectors to pick up original American comics. It must be noted however that this view is a just a generalization from some of my research and this bias doesn’t necessarily exist for all foreign collectors, countries, or types.

The other issue I believe contributed in this bias for American versions is language. The educational systems in place in Europe and elsewhere around the world usually start children on a path to being multilingual from very early on. Language limitations which could have caused a foreign collector to be pigeon holed into only his countries version didn’t seem to







exist in many places. Foreign collectors chose whichever language version of a specific comic they wanted and many did choose the American original if it was available.

Now I am not saying all foreign collectors have a bias against their indigenous version. Many foreign websites do exist celebrating the local published comics along with the American licensed material. I do think however that a portion of foreign collectors in many countries prefer the American original over the indigenous licensed version.

What results from this bias can be twofold: a lack of foreign variant books on the market for sale, whether it be from a foreign seller's perspective that there isn't a desire for these books, or simply that these foreign books didn't survive at all.

How ironic that things have seemed to come full circle. How ironic that American collectors are now seeking out these foreign variants when many within the countries of their origin cared much less about them.

### The end result?

The end result of foreign variant awareness in America will be an increased demand for foreign material. I believe this demand will be particularly strong amongst the foreign variant keys. It seems that during the last couple of years here in the states the collecting focus has started to skew toward being key based instead of the traditional run based focus.

This issue can be debated but there is no denying that certain key books will always be in demand and books that fall before or after in the run will never attain the status of the "keys." It is not a logical stretch then to assume the foreign variant collecting niche will closely follow this key based focus.

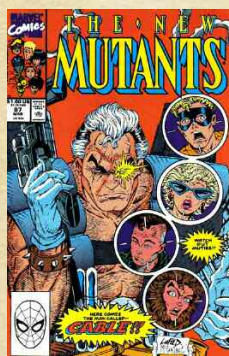
The real challenge for many new collectors will be the purchasing venue. In many countries ebay isn't the be all end all it is here in the states. There are localized auction sites that many foreign collectors use to sell foreign books. The language barrier will be difficult, and the tangled web of foreign comic book forums, auction sites, and foreign comic book vendors will be an adventure for any North American collector to travel through.

New Mutants 1



American

New Mutants 87



American

Written by Define999, I can be contacted at [define999FCC@yahoo.com](mailto:define999FCC@yahoo.com)



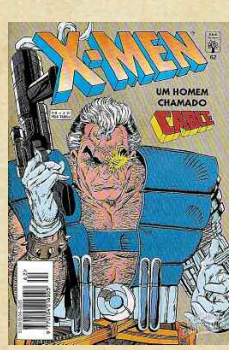
Dutch



Spanish



Italian



Brazilian



Spanish



Swedish

The novel payoff will be huge however for those that do choose to tackle the "hunt" for these foreign variants. A whole new world and mindset will bring fresh perspective to some collectors who tire of the traditional focus on American comic books only.

I know for me personally the difficulty of finding new books and keys for my collection has become enormously expensive. The joy of building a unique and quality collection containing great books from foreign countries has re-energized my collecting soul. And this new love affair with foreign variants hasn't broken the bank either.

Good luck foreign variant collectors! For if there is one thing you need in great volumes in the foreign variant game, its luck!

Dr Strange 169



American

Mexican

French Canadian

With the upcoming rumored Dr. Strange movie on the horizon foreign Strange issues should be in high demand. Strange 169 is what's considered the first Dr. Strange in his own self titled issue! A type of 1st issue by Marvel that isn't labeled as such because of a post office registering issue.



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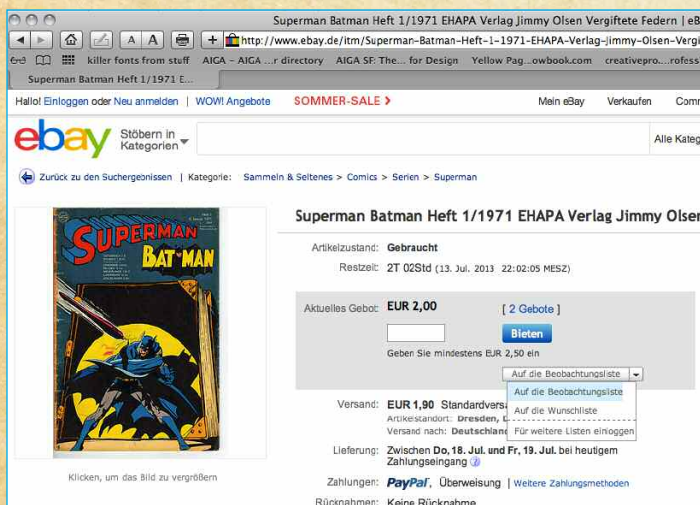
## Tips and tricks to sourcing rare foreign comics

by Define999

So here is a foreign Ebay tip for those of you looking to expand your buying options.

On Ebay's home page there is a tab on the bottom where you can navigate to the flags of other countries. Lets think in hypothetical terms and you are trying to source foreign Batmans from Germany? You head over to German Ebay and you search for Batman Verlag. Verlag being a publisher of German bats.

you go to this listing.....



Everything is in German, pricing is in euros and it is understandably difficult. But dont fret, the graphical interface is still very similar to American Ebay. Go to the drop down watch button and watch the item. Being that its in German this step might take you a few tries. You will then be asked to sign into German Ebay. Do it with your American account and have the item watched! Now go to American Ebay and sign in to your account. Go to your watched items and BAM! Its there, and not only that, Ebay has translated the German into the more familiar English and converted the Euros into Dollars.

Now remember that many foreign sellers don't realize that there is a market outside of their home countries for the local books. If you see something you like and they state no international shipping in the listing? just ask them, many speak English and will ship to America for the right price.



1st foreign hunters tip you must take to heart! By not limiting yourself to American Ebay you open yourself up to even more and sometimes better buying opportunities. Many of those opportunities will be cheaper and hassle-free. But, and there is always a but in the foreign variant game, be warned, shipping across the pond can be expensive and always ask the seller to ship the books securely. I have had things sent in manilla envelopes with no stiffening protection before! This dropped books by entire whole grades and returning damaged merchandise overseas even using foreign Ebay can be a bit of trouble.

Some foreign sellers have no understanding of the condition obsession here in the states so this must be a factor in your communication and dealings!

And one more thing foreign hunters, never forget you represent American collectors while hunting digitally overseas. Some transactions might be the first contact with an American buyer for foreign sellers. Be mindful of who you are representing and treat foreign sellers with respect and in some cases adjustment of standards might be justified. For instance, don't scream refund, and send a book back across the pond just because it received slight damage in shipping. You must accept some risk in purchasing books from overseas/other countries. Don't muddy the waters for all foreign buyers because of obsession about grade. In most instances a happy foreign contact is worth more than any solitary books condition. Mainly because the well-head stays open and future rare books could materialize from that very contact you wisely chose not to harass about condition.

## Quick Fact!

Editora Brazil-America, better known by acronym EBAL, was one of the most important publishers of comics in Brazil. Founded on May 18, 1945 by Adolfo Aizen, he was considered the "Father of Comics in Brazil", and was extremely important to spreading the comic book craze in Brazil.

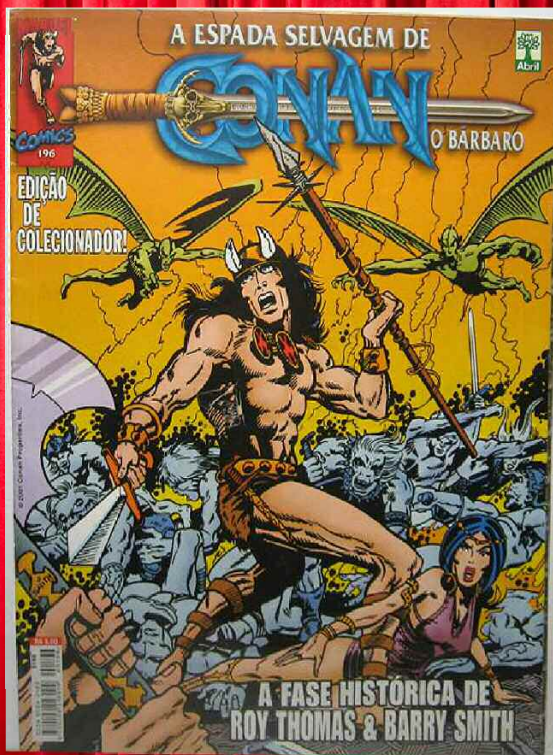
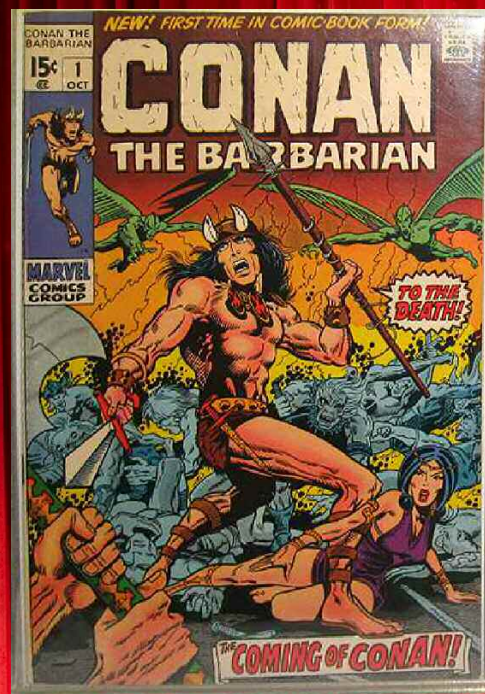
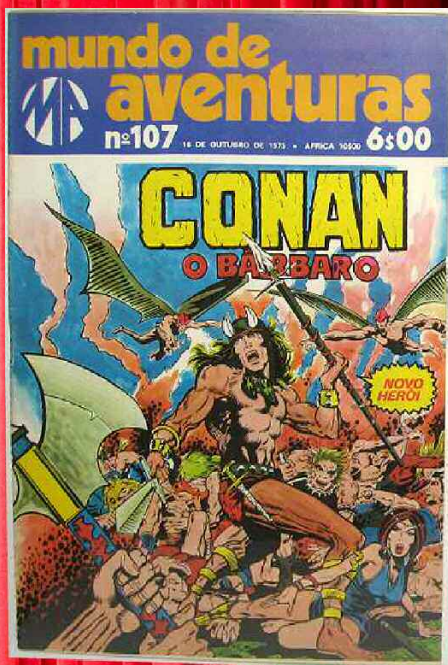
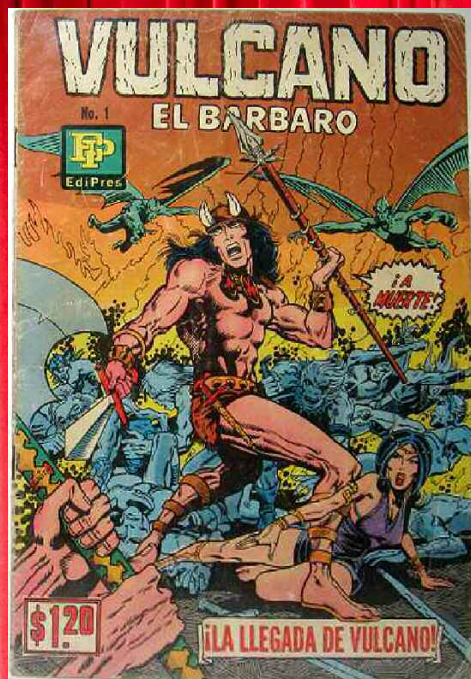




# The Limelight

*The Limelight presents...*

The Amazing R.J.S. Conan 1 set!  
Amazing cover by Barry Windsor-Smith,  
Thomas in his prime, and R.J.S. went and  
found some crazy rare variants of this key.



Countries from left to right and descending onto subsequent pages.... Mexico, Africa/Portuguese, American, American, Brazil, American, Dutch, Australian, Chile, Italy, Australian, Australian, Mexico, Brazil, Spain, UK, Marvel Mania-American, Spain, UK



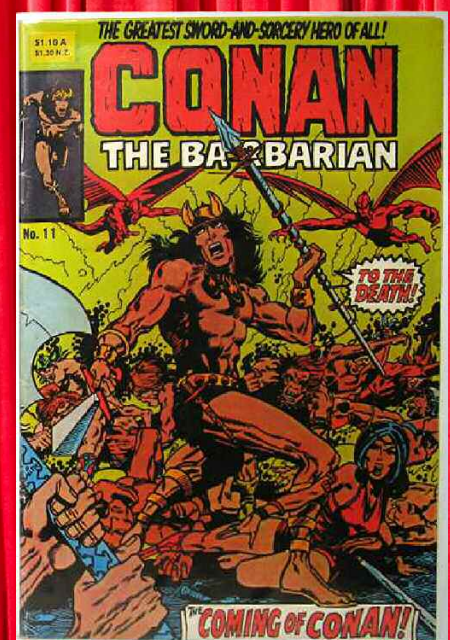
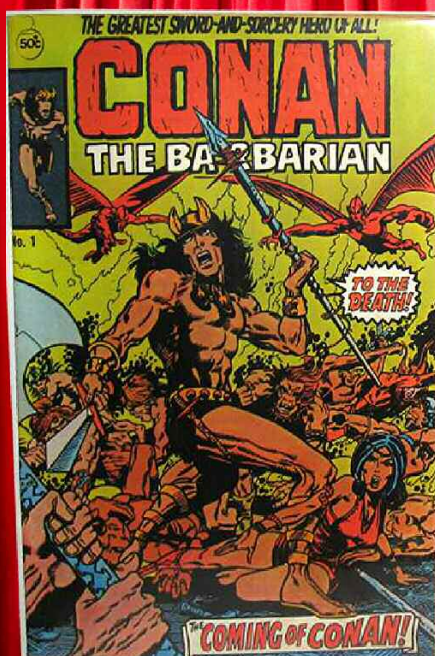
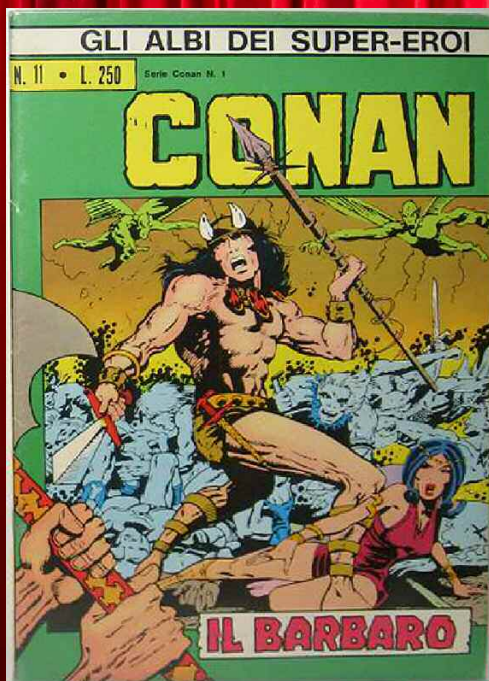
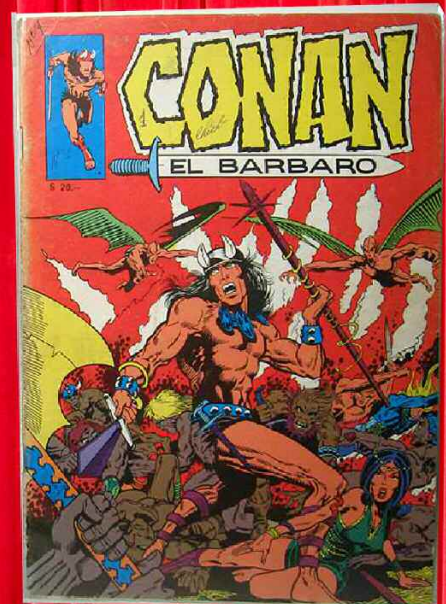
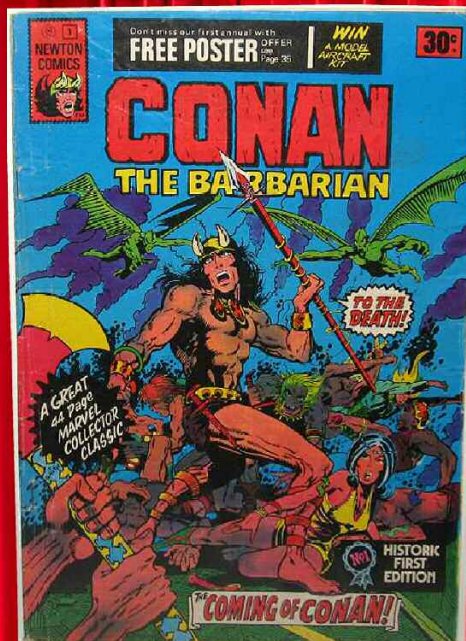
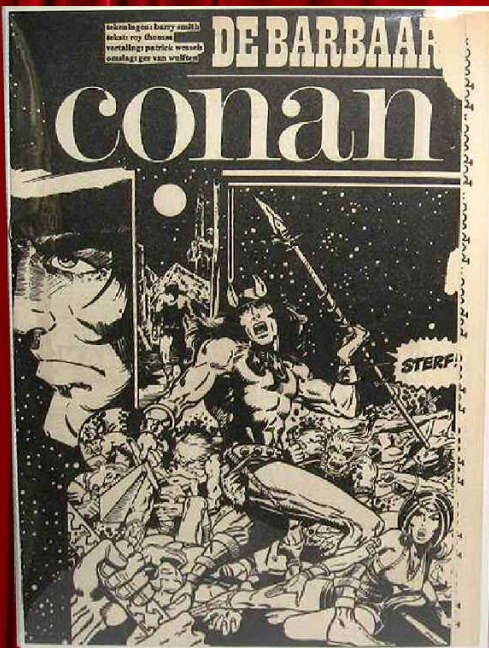


# Conan the Barbarian Vol 1 #1 Oct, 1970

The coming of Conan

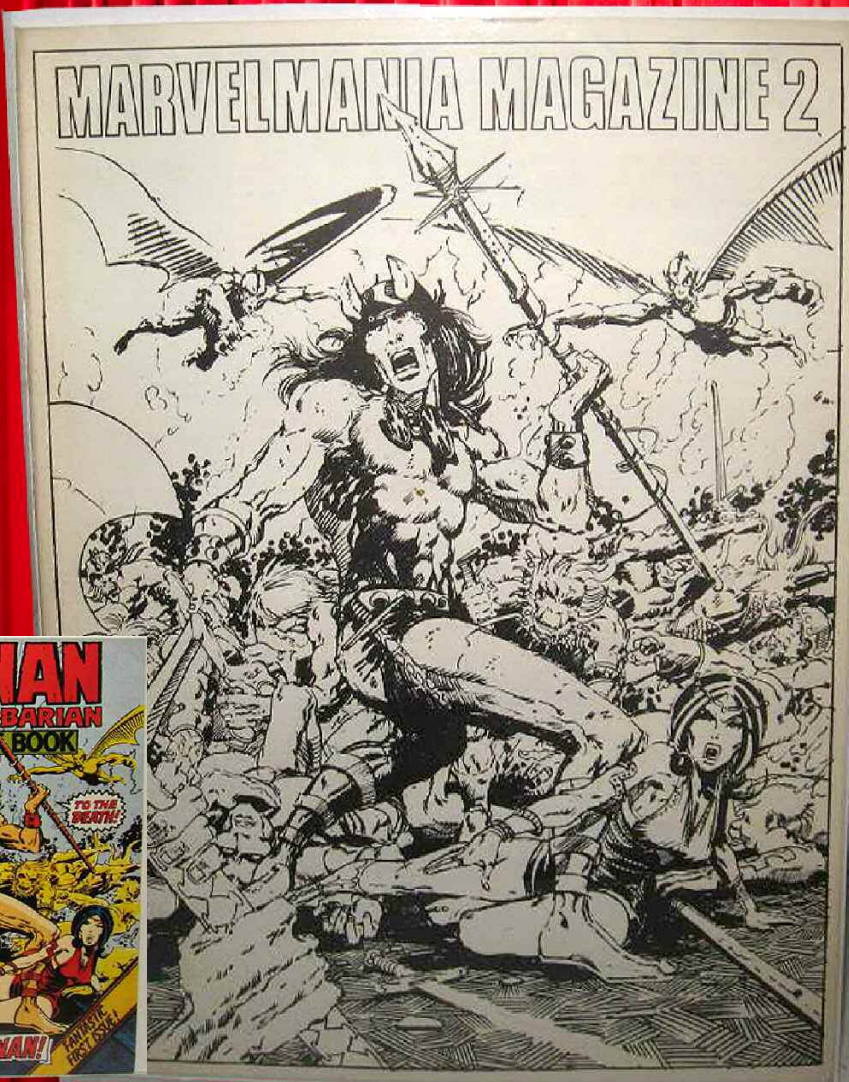
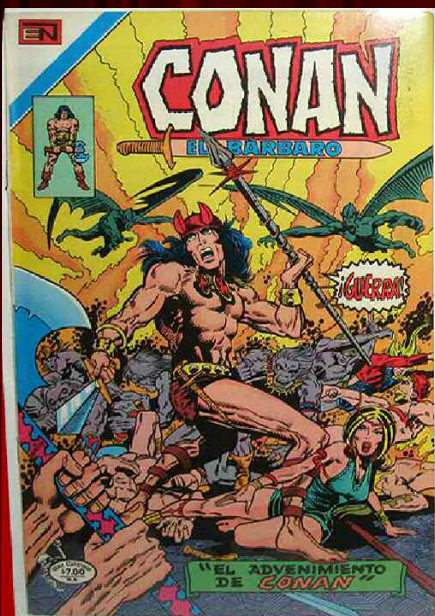
Cover artist: Barry Windsor-Smith  
 Writer: Roy Thomas  
 Penciler: Barry Windsor-Smith  
 Inker: Dan Adkins

Colors: Mimi Gold  
 Letters: Sam Rosen



**Why is this issue important?** Where to start? The idea of licensed characters in comics was a relatively new concept when this issue came out. Conan #1 smashed its way onto the scene and for many this issue begins the Bronze age of comics. A time for more adult themes and a resurgence of the sword and sorcery genre begins with this all important issue. Great work by Smith and Thomas also make this book a lasting key and a important milestone in funny books.





I've been collecting comics for 13 years but mainly just American books for all that time. Then I found out about foreign comics from my friend Matt, once I saw his foreign collection I knew I had to start one of my own! I've been a big Conan fan since the start of my collecting days. Finding foreign books of my favorite cover had to be one of the hardest collecting adventures that I have ever done. This to me is the next level of collecting comics, and the hunt will take you to such great places that you never knew existed! Every day in is an adventure in collecting for me. **The Amazing R.J.S**



# Contributors this issue...



## Define999

Damn! Working on just issues 1 and 2 has really wore this poor boy out! I think I am going to need an associate editor or something? I might have to swallow my pride and admit this mag is a lot of work and I cannot manage it all alone. Anyways, hope you foreign fans enjoyed this issue. Also, interestingly enough I never planned on this issue being almost all Conan theme! But, like many things in life it just kind of worked out that way in a fate driven menagerie of opportunities to show off our favorite Barbarian! Please join us next issue for more foreign madness.

## Jeffery Shanks

Jeffrey Shanks is an archaeologist and historian with a avid interest in popular culture and pulp fiction. He has published a number of popular and scholarly articles on Robert E. Howard and Conan, including a recent contribution to Conan Meets the Academy which garnered the 2012 REH Foundation Award for Best Essay. He is a regular contributor to The Dark Man: The Journal of Robert E. Howard Studies and REH: Two-Gun Raconteur and currently serves as the co-chair of the Pulp Studies area of the Popular Culture Association.



## Amazing R.J.S.

By **CROM** I'll find you Conan!



## Solarcadet

I had Mike Mignola sign my Batman 426 set on Dec 16, 2012 at Phat Collectibles in Anaheim, CA. Being accustomed to signing mostly Hellboy books, Mike was taken back at the rare foreign editions I brought. Mike was very generous and signed all my books, a very special artist if you ever have the chance to meet him!

Do you have an idea for a foreign related story or information you would like to share?  
Contact **define999FCC@yahoo.com** and share away.....

Please sign up for updates @ **www.foreigncomiccollector.webs.com**



9p

NO. 178  
WEEK ENDING  
JULY 7, 1976



# Friends of FCC!

Here at FCC we have decided not to monetize the zine at this time. The ads you see on the back cover are not paid advertisements but people within the comic book world we appreciate for helping us source books, being amazing vendors, creating environments that excite us or just plain rock our socks off! Don't be afraid to check them out....



Ted Van Liew is one of the good guys for sure! Accurate grader, great selection of books, and the dude just likes to talk comics period. I have bought many a comic from Ted over the years and if there is any problem at all with your order it is taken care of quickly and professionally. Check out his site and tell him FCC sent ya!

<http://www.superworldcomics.com/>



Are you a fan and devotee of McFarlane's most popular hellspawn? The most well stocked, content-wise, website for our good friend Al Simmons for sure. Toys, comics, news, forums you name it! And if you are putting together a foreign Spawn set of any type you must VISIT THIS SITE for its invaluable international database.

<http://www.spawnworld.com/>



Many people ask, "where do foreign hunters research foreign books?" Well, the first place for any foreign hunter besides FCC is Grand Comic Database! Their decree is to catalogue every comic known to man if they can and a TON of foreign books are included in their database. Easy search function as well as a page with all the international publishers by country make this site a must for any of you doing research on foreign variants.

<http://www.comics.org/>